

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07

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R 071822Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7722

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 36155

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR, US

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR RUSH'S LUNCHEON FOR SOVIET

AMBASSADOR CHERVONENKO

SUMMARY. I HAD SOVIET AMBASSADOR CHERVONENKO AND HIS WIFE TO LUNCH AT THE RESIDENCE ON DECEMBER 6. HE AGREED WITH ME ON THE NEED FOR BOTH SIDES TO GIVE TOP PRIORITY TO A RESUMPTION OF THE SALT NEGOTIATIONS AS THE NEW ADMINISTRATION GETS UNDERWAY. HE ALSO AGREED ON THE IMPORTANCE OF IMPROVING OUR TRADE RELATIONS IN A WAY WHICH WOULD OVERCOME THE DISCRIMINATORY PROVISIONS OF THE JACKSON-VANNICK AMENDMENT. CHERVONENKO REMAINS INTENSELY INTERESTED IN THE DOMESTIC FRENCH POLITICAL SITUATION. END SUMMARY

1. EAST-WEST RELATIONSHIP AND THE NEW ADMINISTRATION. I TOLD CHERVONENKO I WAS PERSONALLY CONVINCED THAT US INVOLVEMENT IN WORLD AFFAIRS WOULD CONTINUE TO BE JUST AS EXTENSIVE UNDER THE NEW ADMINISTRATION AS IT HAS BEEN UNDER PRESIDENT FORD'S LEADERSHIP. THE NEED FOR CONTINUED POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND DEFENSE INVOLVEMENT HAS NEVER BEEN GREATER. IN DISCUSSING THE VITAL QUESTION OF WHERE THE EAST-WEST RELATIONSHIP GOES FROM HERE, I STRESSED THE PARAMOUNT NEED FOR BOTH SIDES TO CONTINUE TO PURSUE A SALT AGREEMENT. THE SECOND PRIORITY, I CONTINUED, WOULD BE TO DEVELOP AN IMPROVED AND EXPANDED TRADE RELATIONSHIP WHICH WOULD OVERCOME THE DISCRIMINATORY PROVISIONS OF THE JACKSON-VANNICK AMENDMENT.

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CHERVONENKO READILY AGREED WITH THESE PRIORITIES. I SAID THAT I WAS CONVINCED THE NEW ADMINISTRATION WOULD

SPARE NO EFFORT TO PURSUE A CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE IN BOTH OF THESE AREAS.

2. HUMAN RIGHTS. I BRIEFLY MENTIONED THE QUESTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND ITS INCREASING IMPORTANCE IN RELATIONS AMONG GOVERNMENTS. PART OF THE PROBLEM, I EXPLAINED, IS THAT THE SCALE OF VALUES IS INTERPRETED DIFFERENTLY IN DIFFERENT SOCIETIES. CHERVONENKO LISTENED CAREFULLY AND DID NOT RESPOND DIRECTLY, BUT I BELIEVE HE UNDERSTOOD MY IMPLIED POINT OF THE IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT.

3. FRENCH POLITICS. OUR GENERAL DISCUSSION OF THE CURRENT FRENCH POLITICAL SITUATION REVEALED RATHER SIMILAR VIEWS. WHEN I SAID AT ONE POINT THAT I FOUND THE DEGREE OF SOLIDARITY BETWEEN MITTERRAND AND MARCHAIS ON THE LEFT GREATER THAN THAT BETWEEN GISCARD AND CHIRAC ON THE RIGHT, CHERVONENKO ACTED SURPRISED AND HAD HIS INTERPRETER REPEAT MY STATEMENT. HE SEEMED TO BE HINTING AT SOME DIFFERENCES BETWEEN MITTERRAND AND MARCHAIS, OR AT LEAST SEEMED TO BE INDICATING THAT HE DID NOT CONSIDER THE COHESION BETWEEN THEM ALL THAT SOLID. CHERVONENKO IS VERY INTERESTED IN THE FRENCH INTERNAL POLITICAL SCENE, AND FOLLOWED THIS PORTION OF OUR CONVERSATION WITH PARTICULAR ATTENTION.

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4. OTHER THEMES: FRG, FRENCH ECONOMIC SITUATION.

AS IN PAST CONVERSATIONS CHERVONENKO SHOWED SOME PRE-OCCUPATION WITH WEST GERMANY, AND WE HAD AN INCONCLUSIVE DISCUSSION ON HOW THE FRG MIGHT EVOLVE IF STEPS TOWARD INCREASING WEST EUROPEAN UNITY HAVE SOME SUCCESS. HE ALSO SEEMED CONCERNED BY THE PRESENT MEDIOCRE ECONOMIC SITUATION IN FRANCE, AND WHETHER IT IS LIKELY TO CONTINUE FOR A LONG TIME.

5. TOON NOMINATION.

CHERVONENKO OF COURSE WAS IN PRAGUE WITH AMBASSADOR TOON. HE INDIRECTLY CONFIRMED THAT THE SOVIETS WERE NOT VERY PLEASED WITH AMBASSADOR TOON'S NOMINATION TO MOSCOW, CONSIDER HIM A HARD-LINER AND HAD DELIBERATELY HELD UP THE REQUEST FOR AGREEMENT UNTIL AFTER THE ELECTIONS.

6. CHERVONENKO'S PLANS.

AMBASSADOR CHERVONENKO SAID THAT A SOVIET PARLIAMENTARY GROUP HEADED BY PONOMAREV IS DUE TO ARRIVE IN PARIS DECEMBER 7, AND HE EXPECTS TO BE BUSY WITH THEIR VISIT. HE THEN PLANS TO RETURN TO THE SOVIET UNION FOR A FEW WEEKS. ON HIS RETURN HERE, SOMETIME AFTER THE FIRST OF THE YEAR, HE SAID HE WOULD RECIPROCATATE MY LUNCHEON INVITATION.

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7. COMMENT. CHERVONENKO WAS HIS USUAL POLITE AND ATTENTIVE SELF THROUGHOUT THE LUNCH. HE IS OBVIOUSLY VERY CURIOUS ABOUT THE TACK PRESIDENT-ELECT CARTER IS LIKELY TO TAKE WITH THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT. I BELIEVE THAT OUR MEETING WAS USEFUL TO THE EXTENT THAT I WAS ABLE TO REASSURE THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT THROUGH ONE OF ITS SENIOR AMBASSADORS OF OUR GENERAL COMMITMENT TO PEACEFUL EAST-WEST RELATIONS, AND TO STRESS THAT THE SUPPORT OF THE CARTER TEAM FOR THE BASIC OBJECTIVES OF US FOREIGN POLICY WILL BE JUST AS FIRM AS UNDER PRESIDENT FORD'S ADMINISTRATION.
RUSH

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